

**SCS 504 Interpreting the Christian Bible 3 Credits 4 CEUs  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 - 10 a.m.**

<b>Instructor Name</b>	E. J. Niles
<b>Office Hours</b>	1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays
<b>Telephone</b>	816-347-5528 816-600-5430 (Home)
<b>E-Mail</b>	nilesej@unityonline.org ejniles@etbible.org (Home)
<b>Required Texts</b>	Studebaker, A. (1998). Wisdom for a lifetime. Unity Village, MO: Unity Book Butterworth, E. (1989). Discover the Power Within You. San Francisco: Harper Wink, W. (1989) Transforming Bible Study, Abingdon Press
<b>Other Required Reading</b>	Handouts
<b>Recommended Reading</b>	Wink, W. (1988). The Bible in Human Transformation. Philadelphia: Fortress Press

### Course Description

This course will examine various methods of interpretation of the Christian Bible and provide opportunities to understand and demonstrate the various methods and the usefulness of each to preaching and teaching in Unity services or classes.

### Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain various methods of interpretation of the Christian Bible stories
2. Compare and contrast various methods of interpretation
3. Demonstrate how Christian Bible interpretation can be used in teaching and preaching

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity:  
MD-4

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:  
C-4

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:  
MA-1

## Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Paper/Exam/Activity
1a	2/10	Ways to Interpret the Bible	Studebaker - Chaps 1-3	
1b	2/12	Transforming Bible Study (A Maieutic approach)	Wink	
2a	2/17	The Acts of Jesus	Butterworth, Preface and Chapter 2	
2b	2/19	Discussion		
3a	2/24	The Acts of Jesus (continued)	Butterworth 6,8 & 9	
3b	2/26	Discussion		
4a	3/3	The Teachings of Jesus	Butterworth, Chapters 10 and 11	
4b	3/5	Discussion		Presentation # 1
5a	3/10	The Teachings of Jesus (continued)	Handouts	
5b	3/12	Discussion		Presentation # 2
6a	3/17	The Parables of Jesus	Handouts	
6b	3/19	Discussion		Presentation # 3
7a	3/24	The Parables of Jesus (continued)	Handouts	
7b	3/26	Discussion		Presentation # 4
8a	3/31	Selected Passages from the letters of Paul	Handouts	
8b	4/2	Discussion		
9a	4/7	Selected Passages from other New Testament Writings	Handouts	<b>Paper due</b>
9b	4/19	Discussion		
10a	4/14	Passages from Revelation	Handouts	
10b	4/16	Evaluation and Review		

**Assignments for the Master of Divinity:****Grading**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
1 Presentation	35 points	1 and 2
1 paper 20 pages	65 points	3

**Final Grade Determination:**

90 - 100 points A

80 - 89 points B

70 - 79 points C

**Assignments for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:****Grading**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
1 Presentation	35 points	1 and 2
One Paper 15 pages	65 points	2 and 3

**Final Grade Determination**

90 - 100 points A

80 - 89 points B

70 - 79 points C

**Assignments for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:****Grading**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
1 presentation	35 points	1 and 2
One Paper 20 pages	65 points	2 and 3

**Final Grade Determination**

90 - 100 points A

80 - 89 points B

70 - 79 points C

### **Expectations of Students**

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it.

### **Standards for Term Papers:**

- Create a cover page which includes: Course name, instructor's name, due date
- Indicate student's name at the end of the paper
- Double space
- Cite all direct quotes or references
- Use APA standards for references and text citations
- Number all pages
- Indicate word count at end of paper.
- Preferred method of submission is electronically. Hard copy is acceptable.

### **Evaluation of the paper is based on the following factors (in order of relative importance):**

- Depth of knowledge
- Clarity in communicating ideas
- Use of outside resource material (when appropriate)
- APA format in citations and references
- Grammar, sentence structure, spelling

### **Classroom Protocol**

Cooperation with "Guidelines to Maximize the Classroom Experience"

### **Late Assignment Policy**

Term paper and presentation notes received after the due date may be assessed a penalty up to 2% per day or 10% per week

### **Attendance Policy**

While attendance has no direct impact on the final grade, there is a strong correlation between attendance and success in the class. Students missing a class are responsible for obtaining the handouts, information and/or directions from another student.

### **Academic Honesty**

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. Students may seek the assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work.

If a faculty member discovers a student violating academic honesty the following penalty may be applied, depending upon the severity of the infraction:

1. A reduced grade for the assignment.
2. A grade of zero for the assignment.
3. An "F" for the course.
4. Remand the decision to the full faculty.

A report will be sent to the faculty, the Dean, as well as kept in the student's permanent file.

For further information about academic honesty, students are directed to review the Unity Institute Catalog and Unity Institute Student Handbook.

**Special Concerns**

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made.